



HABEAS CORPUS RESOURCE CENTER

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 2:00 p.m. PST, November 17, 2006

Press Release Regarding Kathleen Culhane

San Francisco, CA, November 17, 2006 — In February 2006, the Habeas Corpus Resource Center (HCRC) became aware of allegations that Ms. Kathleen Culhane had prepared and submitted fraudulent declarations to counsel for Michael Morales. Ms. Culhane was employed by the HCRC as an investigator between October 2001 and June 2005. At the time Ms. Culhane joined HCRC she was an experienced, highly-recommended capital case investigator. Ms. Culhane's work product was regarded as being of high quality, and HCRC has had no indication that the information she obtained on behalf of HCRC clients could be subjected to valid criticism.

Nonetheless, the HCRC determined that it is essential to conduct a review of Ms. Culhane's work product that she submitted on behalf of three HCRC clients. This review has included interviewing every witness from whom Ms. Culhane purported to have obtained a declaration in the three cases to which she was assigned. As a result of our investigation, we have determined that numerous witness declarations that Ms. Culhane purported to have obtained were, in fact, not signed by those witnesses. Immediately upon learning of these circumstances, the HCRC notified the California Supreme Court and the Attorney General and withdrew the declarations from the California Supreme Court's consideration. Throughout this process, the HCRC has cooperated with the state's investigation, while ensuring that the rights of HCRC clients are protected.

The Habeas Corpus Resource Center (HCRC), located in San Francisco, provides counsel to represent indigent men and women under sentence of death in California. The HCRC's mission is to provide timely, high-quality legal representation for indigent petitioners in death penalty habeas corpus proceedings before the Supreme Court of California and the federal courts.

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